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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAMING FEBRUARY 24, 2009 "SPAY DAY ESPANOLA" AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, animal shelters in New Mexico are burdened with an overpopulation of approximately ninety thousand cats and dogs each year, many of which, although healthy and adoptable, are euthanized simply because there are not enough homes for them; and

WHEREAS, an unspayed cat can give birth to eighteen kittens each year, and an unspayed dog can give birth to twenty puppies each year; and

WHEREAS, the average cost for animal shelters to handle each homeless animal is one hundred seventy-six dollars (\$176); and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering cats and dogs have been

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1 shown to reduce drastically the cat and dog overpopulation; and

2 WHEREAS, spaying and neutering programs have been shown to
3 be more cost-effective than euthanasia in countering the
4 homeless animal crisis; and

5 WHEREAS, in some communities, pit bulls are
6 overrepresented among the dogs that are euthanized because they
7 do not find suitable homes; and

8 WHEREAS, in Espanola, the euthanasia rate for pit bulls is
9 three and one-half times the euthanasia rate for all other
10 dogs; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2008, one hundred twelve pit bulls taken in by
12 the Espanola valley humane society did not find homes; and

13 WHEREAS, the fifteenth annual "Spay Day USA" takes place
14 on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, with events and activities in
15 honor of spay day taking place throughout the month of February
16 all across the country; and

17 WHEREAS, during Spay Day USA's first fourteen years,
18 participants spayed or neutered more than one million four
19 hundred eighteen thousand animals, potentially preventing
20 millions of births and saving millions of taxpayer dollars; and

21 WHEREAS, the Espanola valley humane society and saving
22 animals New Mexico are offering free spaying and neutering for
23 the pit bulls of Espanola and Rio Arriba county;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 24,

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1 2009 be proclaimed "Spay Day Espanola" at the house of
2 representatives.

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